



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

**WAR ON CANCER.**—*The Medical Record* reports that steps have been taken in New York to form a national anti-cancer association. The leading purpose is the education of the public to recognize the early symptoms of the disease, when cure is most probable, avoiding the fatal mistake of deferring treatment.

**THE FIRST OVARIOTOMY.**—*The Johns Hopkins Bulletin* publishes a portrait and sketch of the life of Dr. Ephraim McDowell, who in December, 1809, performed upon Jane Todd Crawford the first ovariectomy. Her heroism in submitting to the operation, without an anæsthetic, was equal to Dr. McDowell's courage in undertaking it, and should ensure her a place in history among the heroines of the world. She rode sixty miles on horseback to reach the doctor, resting the tumor on the horn of her saddle. She survived the operation 33 years. The lives of countless thousands of women have been saved and untold suffering relieved by means of the surgical procedure whose possibility was thus demonstrated.

**PLASTER BANDAGES.**—*The American Journal of Surgery* advises when applying plaster of Paris to immerse the bandages, standing on end, in a basin of water deep enough to cover, putting in one at a time as needed. In lifting out cover each end with the fingers to prevent loss of plaster. Squeeze gently and pull off the wrappings. When a plaster cast is applied, if the extremities of the stocking or flannel bandage put next the skin are turned down over the cast and a few turns of the plaster bandage made over them near but not at the edge of the cast, a comfortable cuff or border is provided.

**CARE OF CLINICAL THERMOMETER.**—In a letter to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Dr. W. H. Wells suggests keeping a piece of cotton saturated with pure carbolic acid in the thermometer case as a preventive of infection.

**RADIUM IN SURGERY.**—In the same journal Dr. Howard A. Kelly, of Baltimore, says that radium is destined to produce a change in surgical and medical work not less marked than that of the Röntgen ray. It cures many forms of cancer, especially in the early stages, skin cancer, recurrent uterine cancer, and some cases of rectal cancer; it acts favorably on parotid growths, cures some cancers of lip, tongue, and breast,

and is potent in sarcoma. Angiomas, even the large vascular growths, which cannot be treated surgically, are cured by it. In gynæcology it checks the growth of fibroid tumors, stops uterine hemorrhage, and relieves some forms of pelvic inflammation. It is especially useful in obstinate pruritus of the vulva and anus, and promises to be of definite value in exophthalmic goitre.

**TYPHOID FEVER.**—Dr. O. H. Brown, in a review of recent articles on typhoid in the *Interstate Medical Journal*, advocates the continuous cold air bath instead of the periodic cold water bath in the treatment of typhoid fever. The dissipation of heat following immersion in cold water is at best of short duration. Instead, he recommends the gradual withdrawal of bed covering, which holds the heat, until the body is very lightly covered. If cool air circulates through the room, even in winter, a constant withdrawal of heat is kept up with no shock to the patient nor fatigue from being moved. If a bath must be given to reduce temperature, the ideal one is a sponge bath, warm at first, gradually cooled, with friction with turkish towels to dilate the surface blood-vessels. The diet in typhoid should consist of a small amount of protein, a small amount of fat, and a large amount of carbohydrate. Milk and albumen water, cream and lactose are the preferable forms of the three classes of food. A pound of lactose (sugar of milk) may be given in twenty-four hours.

**HOSPITAL PROPHYLAXIS.**—Dr. L. D. Frescoln, writing in the *New York Medical Journal*, urges the maintenance of the highest ideals in hospital work. The giving of medicines should be most carefully safeguarded to avoid mistakes. Window and door screens should be in place early. There should be instant destruction of any flies accidentally admitted. Garbage and material upon which germs breed should not be allowed to remain exposed. Every one connected with the hospital should be taught how to prevent and extinguish fires. Care should be taken to use hospital supplies economically, such as anæsthetics, dressings, etc., and every precaution should be exercised against accidents and hospital epidemics.

**THE USE AND ABUSES OF SUGAR IN THE DIET OF CHILDREN.**—*The Medical Record* reports a paper, by Dr. Elias H. Bartley, and a discussion on this subject. Sugars are valuable because they yield heat and energy with small tax on the organs of digestion and assimilation. Taken in excess they are harmful, causing rheumatism, urticaria, respiratory affections, and symptoms that might be mistaken for those of tuberculosis. They also have remote effects on the nervous system and the mucous membrane. Extraordinary nervousness, bilious attacks, headaches, and malaise have been cured by cutting down sugar.

FEEDING INFANTS WITH UNDILUTED COW'S MILK.—Dr. William B. Hanbridge advocates the feeding of babies with whole milk and feeding them only when hungry. This is nature's method. Experiments had convinced him that from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  ounces of whole milk for each pound of body weight gave sufficient nourishment for twenty-four hours.

TRANSPLANTATION OF ORGANS.—*The Maryland Medical Journal* says that Dr. Alexis Carrel, of the Rockefeller Institute, is of opinion that the organs and tissues of healthy persons who meet with sudden death should be preserved for future use. Such material may be kept for days or weeks under proper conditions, and then used for sufferers who need it. Persons suffering from the loss of bones, or from bone lesions, have had the healthy bones of animals or human beings incorporated to take the place of those whose function had been destroyed. Arteries have been united, organs and tissues transplanted, and wonderful results obtained in plastic surgery.

SUGAR IN DISEASE OF THE HEART.—Dr. S. G. Denyer reports in the *Lancet* the case of a patient 77 years old, cyanosed, with irregular, feeble, rapid pulse and paroxysmal breathing. The patient seemed to be dying but revived after the administration of lumps of white sugar given in milk. Four ounces of sugar were given during the night; there was manifest improvement and the same quantity was given in the next twelve hours. Smaller quantities were given for some weeks, and the patient gained slowly but steadily.

PRESERVATION OF ANATOMIC PREPARATIONS IN STRONG SUGAR SOLUTIONS.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association*, quoting from a German contemporary, reports that the preservation of specimens in a thick solution of sugar, such as fruit is preserved in, has been found simple, inexpensive, convenient, and satisfactory. The color is retained and the tissues do not become stiff and brittle, but cut with ease for microscopical examination. The specimens were kept from six to twelve hours in formaldehyde solution, then twelve to twenty-four hours in 50 per cent. alcohol, before being transferred to the sugar solution. Enough water was added to ordinary beet sugar to dissolve most of it, leaving a little at the bottom of the jar undissolved.

SUGAR IN UNCONTROLLABLE VOMITING IN INFANTS.—The same journal in a synopsis of a paper in a French medical journal states that much sweetened condensed or ordinary milk has a prompt sedative action in the inveterate vomiting of young infants. The milk is heated and about 10 per cent. of sugar added, to make it about as sweet as condensed milk. The casein under this treatment is entirely unlike that of ordinary raw milk, more closely resembling human milk. There is some chemical action on the albuminoids of the milk from the sugar conjoined with heat.